

Claims

- [c1] A security system for a compartment having a closure member, which security system is arranged to permit sealing of the closure member and to monitor a sealed status thereof, the security system comprising:
- a detector for sensing opening and closing movement of the closure member and providing a detector output;
 - a first input device providing an electrical first device output, the first input device being operable solely by means of an authorized user and having a first function for signifying sealing of the compartment;
 - a second input device providing an electrical second device output, the second input device being operable any person and having a second function for checking the sealed status of the compartment;
 - an indicator having at least first and second states indicative of whether or not unauthorized access has been made to the compartment once sealed; and
 - an access verification controller arranged to control the indicator depending upon said outputs received from the detector and the input devices.
- [c2] A security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first input device is key-operated such that the first input device may be operated only by a person having the appropriate key.

- [c3] A security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indicator has first and second indicator lights, the first light being associated with the first state of the indicator and the second light with the second state thereof.
- [c4] A security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first state of the indicator corresponds to the closure member having been sealed closed by an authorized user and the compartment has not been opened thereafter.
- [c5] A security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second state of the indicator corresponds to the closure member having been opened at least once, following sealing by an authorized user.
- [c6] A security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indicator has a third state also indicative of whether access has been made to the compartment, once sealed.
- [c7] A security system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the indicator has first, second and third indicator lights, the first light being associated with the first state of the indicator, the second light with a second state thereof and the third light with a third state thereof.
- [c8] A security system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first state as indicated by the first light corresponds to the closure member having been sealed closed by an authorized user and

the compartment has not been opened thereafter.

- [c9] A security system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second state as indicated by the second light corresponds to the closure member having been opened only once, following sealing by an authorized user.
- [c10] A security system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second state corresponds to the closure member having been sealed by an authorized user, following a previous sealing by an authorized user.
- [c11] A security system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the third state as indicated by the third light corresponds to one of the closure member having been opened more than once, following sealing by an authorized user, and the closure member having been opened and closed other than by an authorized user.
- [c12] A security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compartment comprises a goods-carrying compartment of a commercial vehicle and the closure member comprises a closable access door to the compartment.
- [c13] A security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the access verification controller comprises a microprocessor running a control program.

- [c14] A security system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the control program of the microprocessor stores data relating to all openings, closings and authorized sealings of the closure member, for subsequent download.
- [c15] A security system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the control program associates said data with date and time information concerning each event stored.
- [c16] A security system for a compartment having a closure member, which security system is arranged to permit sealing of the closure member and to monitor a sealed status thereof, the security system comprising:
 - a detector for sensing opening and closing movement of the closure member and providing a detector output;
 - a first input device providing an electrical first device output, the first input device being operable solely by means of an authorized user and having a first function for signifying sealing of the compartment;
 - a second input device providing an electrical second device output, the second input device being operable any user and having a second function for checking the sealed status of the compartment;
 - an indicator having first, second and third states indicative of whether unauthorized or authorized access has been made to the compartment once sealed; and

an access verification controller arranged to control the indicator depending upon said outputs received from the detector and the input devices, whereby the first state of the indicator corresponds to the closure member having been sealed closed by an authorized person and the compartment has not been opened thereafter, the second state of the indicator corresponds to the closure member having been opened at least once following sealing by an authorized user and then resealed by an authorized user, and the third state of the indicator corresponds to the closure member having been opened following sealing by an authorized user and then sealed again other than by an authorized user.

- [c17] A security system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the compartment comprises a goods-carrying compartment of a commercial vehicle and the closure member comprises a closable access door to the compartment.
- [c18] A security system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the detector comprises a link adapted for passing through a closure mechanism for the access door of the compartment, which link may be connected only once the door has been closed and which link must be disconnected to permit opening of the door, the detector sensing the connection and disconnection of the link.
- [c19] A security system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first

input device is key-operated such that the first input device may be operated only by a user having the appropriate key.

- [c20] A security system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the second input device comprises a manually-operable switch.
- [c21] A security system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the access verification controller comprises a microprocessor running a control program.
- [c22] A security system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the control program of the microprocessor stores data relating to all openings, closings and authorized sealings of the closure member, for subsequent download.